

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 13 and extends to page 14 as follows:

In an alternative embodiment, an intermediate buffer vessel is used to store the supercritical cleaning solution before delivery to the process vessel. Figure 3 shows a solvent delivery mechanism, 104B (within dotted line area), which uses such a buffer vessel. Solvent delivery mechanism 104B includes many of the components that were described for solvent delivery mechanism 104A in Figure 2. In this case, supercritical cleaning solution leaving heat exchanger 118 enters a buffer vessel 126. Buffer vessel 126 has a volume to hold sufficient supercritical cleaning solution to rapidly fill process vessel 106 for processing. In a preferred embodiment, buffer vessel 126 holds a volume of supercritical solution to equal between about 5 and 25 times the volume of the process cavity (which holds the wafer or wafers) in process vessel 106. If a recirculation system is included with the wafer cleaning system, then buffer vessel 126 holds a volume of supercritical solution equal to between about 5 and 25 times the combined volume of the process cavity and the volume of the recirculation system. In this way, processing is expedited because the system can be charged with supercritical solution much faster.

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